

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO. : 10/026,301 CONFIRMATION NO. 8087
APPLICANT : De Billot *et al.*
FILED: : December 19, 2001
TC/A.U. : 1616
EXAMINER : Alton Nathaniel Pryor
DOCKET NO. : 17396/09015
CUSTOMER NO. : 45850

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is a response to the Office Action dated October 5, 2007. This response is being deposited as First Class Mail on the date noted on the accompanying Certificate of Mailing and is believed to be timely with respect to the shortened statutory period for response that was set in the Action and in view of the petition for an extension of time of one (1) month and appropriate fee therefor, which accompany this Response.

With respect to the restriction of claims under 35 USC §121, the Applicant elects the claims of Group II (claims 103, 106, 108-110, 112, 117, 134-145, 153 and 155-158) for immediate prosecution.

With due respect, the Applicant wishes to point out that after almost seven years of prosecution, ten office actions, two requests for continued examination, and three changes in examiner, the Office has now asserted a third restriction requirement. The Applicant believes that it has prosecuted the application in good faith and respectfully requests that the Office make every effort to define allowable subject matter and bring

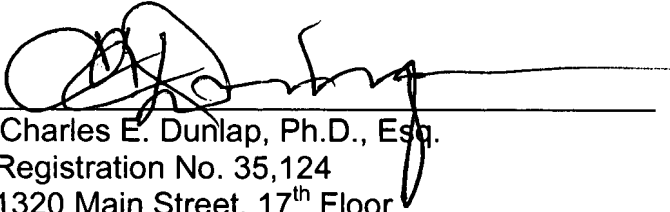
the case to closure.

The Applicant would welcome a telephone call to the undersigned to resolve any issue or misunderstanding that might arise.

Respectfully requested,

NELSON MULLINS RILEY & SCARBOROUGH, LLP

Date November 15, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles E. Dunlap", is written over a horizontal line.

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